Further, the States have been advised to provide toilet and safe drinking water facilities through convergence with the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme and Total Sanitation Campaign Programme of the Department of Drinking Water Supply.

Apart from this, all the State Governments/UT Administrations have been addressed to seek support for creation of infrastructural facilities in the AWCs in areas identified under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan from the funds available under the Schemes/Programmes administered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs respectively. States have also been advised to utilize the assistance of NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-XII Plan for the purpose.

Trafficking of boys and girls

†4256. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information on trafficking of boys and girls from some States of the country;

(b) the names of States where trafficking of boys and girls is going on;

(c) whether Government have taken any action to this inhuman trade; and

(d) whether these steps have proved to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There is no State-wise census data on the number of women and children trafficked for prostitution. The study on "Girls/Women in Prostitution in India" (conducted between 2002-04) sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development reports that there is a growing trend in the number of prostitutes in the country. The study estimates that there are 2.8 million prostitutes in the country of which 35.47% entered the trade before the age of 18 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programme for prevention of child trafficking. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling,rehabilitation and other facilities to women in difficult circumstances including trafficked victims and children. The Ministry is also implementing a project to combat trafficking of women and children.

Children adopted by foreign nationals

4257. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children adopted by foreign nationals living in the country or Indian nationals living in foreign countries during last five years;

(b) the status of funds allocated for regulating the inter-country adoption of children;

(c) whether safety and well upbringing of adopted children is ensured through some mechanism ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) During the last five years, 4830 NOCs have been issued in the case of children placed in Inter-country adoption including Non-resident Indians (NRIs); Overseas Citizen of India (OCIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

(b) Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), which is an autonomous body under the Ministry, is fully funded by the Government of India and it regulates the inter-country adoption of children. During the year 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 1.50 crore was allocated to CARA for its administration as well as for implementation of its inter-country adoption programme.